Littleport Scrapbook 1897-1990

Extracts from 'A Cambridgeshire Scrapbook', compiled by Mike Petty 16 Nov 2016

Introduction

Each evening from March 1997 to March 2015 I compiled a 'Looking Back' column in the Cambridge News in which I feature snippets from issues of 100, 75, 50 and 25 years ago. I sought out unusual items relating to villages and areas of Cambridge not usually featured These stories are from issues of the Cambridge Daily/Evening/Weekly News of 1897-1990 I can supply actual copies of many of these articles – please contact me.

The full set of articles, numbering over 3,000 pages is available at bit.ly/CambsCollection

The newspapers are held in the Cambridgeshire Collection together with other Cambridge titles back to 1762. They have a variety of indexes including a record of stories for every village in Cambridgeshire between 1770-1900 and newspaper cuttings files on 750 topics from 1958 to date. I initiated much of the indexing and have many indexes of my own. Please feel free to contact me for advice and assistance.

For more details of newspapers and other sources for Cambridgeshire history see my website www.mikepetty.org.uk

This index was produced as a part of my personal research resources and would benefit by editing. If you can make any of it work for you I am delighted. But remember you should always check everything!

Please make what use of it you may. Please remember who it came from

Mike Petty.

Littleport Scrapbook 1897-1990

1897 02 26

The clerk to the Ely Guardians applied for the removal of Tabitha Camm, an eccentric old woman aged 72 years who is living in a tumbled-down old hovel in Littleport fen. The place was filthy in the extreme. She has lived there all her life and she tenaciously sticks to it. PC King said the walls were tumbling down and the bricks had no mortar between them. The rain penetrated and soot and dirt covered the place. The lady is independent in every sense of the word and would-be sympathisers are quickly ordered to decamp

1897 09 07

The Bishop of Ely has offered the appointment of Vicar of Littleport to the Rev F.E. Rogers, curate of St Matthew's. Cambridge and of St James' Mission Church. Mr Rogers has been in Cambridge for about 14 years. He has been termed the "father" of all the young men in the parish and has been the means of reclaiming some of the most obstinate cases. He was also to a great degree instrumental in bringing the Church Army into Cambridge. He is also founder of the hostel for undergraduates in Abbey Walk which enables young gentlemen to have, in addition to a university education, a parochial education of the highest order

1898 03 18

Fred Richardson, foreman of the second gangs of lighters belonging to Messrs Brown and Goodman, met with a serious accident which ultimately proved fatal. It appears one of the lighters ran aground at Littleport on the same side as the horse. To get the boat off again block and tackle were fixed on the opposite bank, and the rope from the boat to the through the pulley to the horse. The rope got entangled around his neck, quite crushing the windpipe, and the poor fellow was taken more dead than alive up to the Globe Inn, Littleport where an operation was resorted to. We regret to learn that Mr Richardson died at three o'clock. The unfortunate victim was conscious when his friends visited him yesterday # c.26.3

1898 08 10

Joseph Martin of Littleport told the Agricultural Committee on National Wheat Stores that he was not in favour of a reserve. He said "It is most unremunerative, growing wheat. I am of the opinion that if you could by any means guarantee a better price for wheat there would be many more thousands of acres. I am in the fen district. It is really a wheat growing country. But a good deal of the heavy land has gone out of cultivation entirely and grass has taken the place of wheat"

1898 08 19

An itinerant umbrella maker and scissor grinder was charged with stealing a half crown from Kate Taylor, domestic servant to Mr William Cutlack, of Littleport. She gave him a pair of scissors to grind for which he charged 2d. An umbrella was next entrusted to his versatile art, in which he put a new handle and charged 1s.6d. The lady had not less than half-a-crown and expected change but he walked off with the money. As she was afraid of the man she told the groom, John Lambert. He found him quietly enjoying himself at the Gilgal pub. Defendant pleaded guilty and was sentenced to three weeks hard labour

1899 04 28

Ely council heard that at Littleport all well water was condemned for drinking purposes, the only supply left being the river. Many houses were not provided with water tanks or cisterns, and many instances water was actually being sold for weeks in dry weather, when there was no rain. This rain water was subject to contamination from birds and smoke, and required filtering to be palatable and safe. No doubt the outlay for a pure water supply would cause a little outcry at first, but advantages would far surpass the disadvantages and additional rates

1899 06 06

Louisa Mustill of Littleport said that when she went to work at the factory at 20 minutes past five in the morning she left a dustpan and brush at the back of the house. She purchased it some time back for 4½d. When she returned in the evening she found the dustpan gone. She did not know that Mr Collins, a grocer, gave dustpans similar to that she lost to people who purchased a pound of tea. P.C. Lilley sent he went to the prisoner's house and found the dustpan in the washhouse. Prisoner said she had bought it in a bazaar for 6½d. The charge was withdrawn

1899 10 27

A good deal of amusement was created at Littleport. From rumours widely circulated it was expected at a "real gypsy wedding" would take place at the parish church. Some said the contracting parties were to be taken thither in a caravan, that the bride would be attired in red plush and the father had presented the happy pair with a giant cup half filled with sovereigns. The building was filled by an expectant congregation, with prominent inhabitants and many of the young women from the factory. No bride and bridegroom presented themselves and the congregation made their departure with feeling that can better be imagined than described.

1899 12 15

The frost continues with great severity in the fens. The University Skating Club at Cambridge was opened yesterday. The ice was fairly thick, but rough. The moors at Littleport were open to the public, but there was practically little skating elsewhere. The National Skating Association were busy making the necessary arrangements for bring off the Championships and other races and entered into arrangement with the proprietor of the Littleport Club to hold the British Championships at that resort.

1900 02 12

For the first time the British Amateur Skating Championship has been decided at Littleport. At no venue in Great Britain are the arrangements so to up-to-date. All Cambridge sportsmen will welcome Albert Tebbit's success. He has had to wait five years to have his third race for the championship which has always been held by a man from Welney – the little hamlet known as the metropolis of speed skating

1900 07 11

Ely U.D.C. heard that a traction engine belonging to Mr T.H. Summerlee of Littleport, having got beyond the control of the driver, ran down Back Hill, coming into contact with the kerb in front of the old cottages and overturning on the roadway. The chairman thought that if it were possible to make regulations with regard to traction engines they ought to do so. They might cause serious accidents, as anyone coming up the hill with a big load could not turn round and get away from a runaway engine.

1900 10 26

In considering a supply of water to Littleport the Inspector said the population would require 50,000 gallons per day. The available rivers ran for a considerable length through the fens and were used as main outfall drains for the pumping engines which pumped water from the adjoining fen lands. It was obvious that any water would be subject to pollution by peaty water from the pumping stations. The waters of the Little Ouse, if taken at the end of White Hall Drove, would prove the most suitable but would still be of doubtful quality. Whatever source was chosen there should be a service reservoir near the main road to Ely

1900 11 15

The National Skating Association meeting heard that the Fen Centre of the Speed Departmental Committee was enabled to bring off both the Amateur and Professional Speed Skating Championships at Littleport, Mr A.E. Tebbit retaining the former, while the latter was

won by Fred Ward. James Smart, who had for so long held the title, did not compete, as he has retired from the racing track.

1901 01 07

Prospects of early skating are splendid, and unless there is an immediate change the exhilarating pastime will be indulged in tomorrow at the Littleport rendezvous. Swavesey is also flooded and will soon bear. Whether the National Skating Association will decide to hold the Championships there or at Littleport is not yet known. There is much to recommend both places, but whereas they lack length of a proper course at Littleport, the arrangements for racing are almost perfect.

1901 01 09

Mr Luddington said that people might think Littleport was a plague-infested place – (Mr Cutlack: So it is). There was nothing to prevent typhoid germs floating down the river from Ely, while the fen engines were constantly pouring in water that was impure. There was the flood time and the time when the reeds were cut and allowed to lie in the water and stink. Let them look up the river that day and ask themselves if the water was fit to drink.

1901 01 18

A Littleport parish meeting was held to consider the matter of the water supply attracted a large assembly. The clerk reported on three schemes – an independent supply from Beck Row, a supply from the River Lark, and a supply from Ely. Without the proposed reservoir and the fire hydrants the work could be carried out for £5,000. It was for the meeting to decide whether to have water for a favoured few or go to the whole parish. Most of the cases of typhoid had occurred against the drain that came down Black Bank, but there were some cases at Red Cow Drove.

1901 02 16

An inquiry was held at Littleport on provision for a new burial ground. There was now only room for 20 grave spaces and the Parish Council had decided to purchase a piece of ground known as Dove House Close which adjoined the present cemetery. It was rather near to houses, but they had obtained the sanction of the householders and occupiers. The estimated cost was £1,500.

1903 05 23

Typhoid fever was present in Cambridge during the year, 17 cases in 14 households having been notified. Four were county cases admitted into Addenbrooke's Hospital for treatment; five were imported from Fenstanton, Swaffham, Norfolk, Littleport and London. Two cases were probably due to eating shellfish. Two were nurses who had charge of typhoid patients and others could not be accounted for. Three of the cases proved fatal

1903 07 15

John Mott, farmer of Littleport, said he occupied 650 acres of the Dairy Houses Farm. There were three droves adjoining his land, all running from Common-acre drove. These belonged to the parish and he had to repair them himself & keep the dykes cleaned out. There were 20 head of cattle on the drove which were feeding on the grass of his dykes, the sides of which they were treading in and he meant to keep them off his property. The cattle always had a boy with them and were turned out on the public road and were allowed to go where they liked. The judge said Mott was entitled to his injunction, though he was sorry to interfere with the use of the droves which had been enjoyed for a considerable period. He gave a verdict for nominal damages of one shilling

1903 08 12

At Littleport parish council Mr Cross brought forward a motion calling attention to the desirability of a public urinal. He had spoken to may ratepayers of the poorer classes and not found many against it. It would mean only a half-penny rate if it were erected with a tank in the coal place (there being a sewer near by). There were no such public conveniences except on licensed premises. The Chairman was in favour and Mr Martin said he would support it if there were a sufficient supply of water. He also thought it important to have a bathing place so that everyone should learn to swim

1905 01 21

For the last three days the thermometer has been registering eleven degrees of frost; should it hold the professional skating race open to all the world for the Littleport Fifty Guineas Challenge Cup will take place. It is imperative that skaters all over the country should receive due notice; once the amateur champion, W. Housden of Wicken Fen, did not hear and was unable to defend his title. There is already a fine sheet of ice on Lingay Fen but it is doubtful if the public will be allowed on it for a few days. Sheets of ice promise to be ready for use at Newnham shortly.

1905 04 28

Mr James Runciman, son the veterinary surgeon of Ely, met with a serious accident while driving his trap along the Mildenhall Road towards Littleport. His horse shied on meeting a motor and plunged head first into a deep ditch, breaking its neck. Mr Runciman was thrown after it and the trap overturned on top of him. He managed to extricate himself and was taken to the house of Mr Glover, a farmer, where he was treated with the greatest kindness. The motorists pulled up about 30 yards beyond the accident. 05 04 28a

1905 07 15

Mr J.A Martin of Ely said the water supply of the country was a most difficult question. In the fen district the rivers constituted the main supply and every precaution ought to be taken to keep them free from contamination. If they could utilise the water out of the rivers they would have as good a supply as they could wish. Mr Luddington of Littleport said many of the inhabitants turned to the river for their supply but the city of Ely poured crude sewage into the stream above them. 05 07 15a-d1905

1905 07 25

Littleport Parish Council considered a report on the outbreak of typhoid in the village in 1904. Their natural water supply was from the river but Ely council was now planning to discharge a large quantity of extra sewage into the Ouse. A piped water supply was said to be too expensive and nobody would give them a direct reply to their enquiries. 05 07 25b

1905 08 17

An accident took place on the Adelaide Bridge: Mr G. Washington of Littleport was driving a party of nine or ten in his carrier's van to Shippea Hill and when descending the bridge the brake did not act properly. The horse became troublesome and the front wheels of the cart separated from the rest of the wagon. Most of the party were pitched out but escaped without serious injury. They had to make their way home on foot. 05 08 17

1905 09 30

Cambridgeshire Angling Society has hired the rights of fishery in a stretch of water from Littleport Dock Bridge nearly down to Brandon Creek. The small subscription gives not only the benefit of fishing in a preserved fishery and the assistance of the keeper, but also return tickets at single fares to a large number of railway stations 05 09 30b

1906 06 09

Littleport suicide schoolmaster of Fen and Dairyhouses school – 06 06 09b & c

1906 07 02

An extensive fire resulted in the complete destruction of Fyfe's forage factory at Littleport. The three-storey building of wood and corrugated iron was situated between the river and the railway line, and filled with inflammable material. Once well alight total destruction was inevitable. Two cylinders used for steaming chaff remain amidst a great mass of charred beams and sheets of iron twisted by intense heat into all manner of fantastic shapes. 06 07 02

1906 11 09

Littleport fishing rights – 06 11 09b

1907 01 26

In glorious weather a large number of professional skaters competed for the Fifty-Guinea Cup at Littleport. On the outward journey on the mile-and-a-half course the competitors reached a quite extraordinary speed but the return leg was quite a different tale; great stamina was essential to push against the powerful wind. W. Housden beat E. Moxon in the final.07 01 26

1907 02 05

Littleport Skating Club's amateur race attracted 30 competitors. The ice was in good condition but a fairly heavy fall of snow necessitated the use of the snow plough to remove a coating that probably helped increase the times of some of the heats. It was won by F.W. Dix of Raunds. But a thaw means that the ice at Lingay Fen has been considerably weakened and the British Championships have had to be postponed. 07 02 05

1907 04 11

A Littleport baker appeared in court. The case has aroused a great deal of interest for he was a well-known public man, a member of various administrative bodies and while awaiting trial was returned equal at the head of the poll in the Rural Council elections. He was found not guilty. 07 04 11

1907 04 24

The Lord Chief Justice heard an appeal relating to fishing in the Great Ouse between Littleport High Bridge and Brandon Creek. The Lord of the Manor had granted exclusive angling rights to the Cambridge and Ely Angling Society. It was argued that ancient books showed the river had been cut after the original grant of the Manor had been made so he had no control over it. This was dismissed and the rights upheld 07 04 24 & a

1907 07 03

The bankruptcy court heard that a Littleport baker had previously given up his High Street shop but been able to pay his creditors. He had no oven and could only carry on by getting others to bake for him. He'd also been accused of stealing flour. He was a member of the Parish Council and while some men can fulfil public office without affecting their business, others cannot. You never know how much time they occupy and their business suffers 07 07 03a

1907 08 20

An inquest was held at Littleport on the body of an ex-soldier living at Three Holes, Upwell. He had been found lying in the corner of a wheat field at Burnt Chimney Drove with a revolver in his hand and a terrible wound in the head. In one pocket was found an ounce bottle nearly full of laudanum. He had served in India and at times he was queer.07 08 20

1907 10 09

Christopher Taylor, agricultural labourer of Wisbech Road, Littleport claimed eight shillings a week under the Workmen's Compensation Acts. He had been working for Charles Jones of First Willow Row Farm when there had been a storm of sleet and rain, stopping work. He'd

left his tools, taken off his long boots and put on his shoes to walk home but had slipped on a plank crossing a drain and injured his knee. The court agreed that his employment did cover his journey to and from work and the claim was upheld. 07 10 09 & a

1908 01 10

Everybody in Cambridgeshire is concerned in the attempt to induce the War Office to retain the 4th Battalion Suffolk Regiment, better known as the Cambs Militia. It now only trains once a year and inculcates habits of discipline to the men who join. During the Napoleonic wars it had an exciting time and went to Ireland in 1799. In 1816 they assisted the Royal Dragoons to overpower the Littleport rioters but by 1852 there was only an old sergeant major and some antiquated sergeants at Ely. 08 01 10 h i

1908 01 17

Charles Thornhill, started as a baker at Littleport nine years ago. His father bought a horse and cart and things in the bakehouse and he got flour on credit. He continued for seven years, then was sold up for failing to pay the rent. Since then he had been working for his wife who allowed him two shillings a week for clothes, the bankruptcy court heard. 08 01 17f

1908 07 17

Robert Jugg, Orwell Pitts farm, Ely, died after being kicked by a horse which spooked by car driven by Littleport doctor – CWN 08 07 17 p3

1908 10 03

The court heard that under his will dated 1870 Richard Lenton had left his windmill at Littleport to his wife and daughters. In 1891 it had been let to Henry Canham who paid the rent until 1898 but as he was in very poor circumstances the executor had not pressed him for it until 1906 when he went to Littleport and found that Canham was dead. William Walker had possession of the mill but refused to return the keys until he'd been repaid for the rates and taxes he'd spent on it. CWN 08 10 03 p7

1908 07 17

Robert Jugg, Orwell Pitts farm, Ely, died after being kicked by a horse which spooked by car driven by Littleport doctor – CWN 08 07 17 p3

1909 05 22

The unknown airship whose nocturnal wanderings in East Anglia have caused such a sensation is said to have been seen in Downham Fen eight days ago. Mr James Wilkin thought he heard the noise of a motor car but could not see one. His son said "Didn't you see it! It was an airship!" Other people in the locality observed the mysterious stranger, which is said to have gone in the direction of Littleport 09 05 22

1910 04 08

Bargemen objected to proposed bylaws regarding lighting on barges saying they can travel more safely without them. Mr Charles Dyson of North Street Burwell said "My barges are required to carry oil, sedge, turf etc and the use of lights might prove dangerous. I have travelled on the river for 40 years and never seen any accident caused by not using lights". E.H. Godby of Littleport says he does a lot of hay and chaff work and cannot afford to have his cargo burnt while Colchester and Ball of Burwell says their boats do not travel at night and see no reason why they should show a light when stationery. Ferry boat owners also say it could be a serious expense to have to keep lights burning all night. 10 04 08 b & c

1910 06 17

Hangings – William Grimshaw 1801, Littleport rioters 1816, John Scare Whittlesford burglary 1817, Joshua Slade 1827 etc - 10 06 17d Hangings – William Grimshaw 1801,

Littleport rioters 1816, John Scare Whittlesford burglary 1817, Joshua Slade 1827 etc - 10 06 17d & e

1910 09 16

Littleport girl killed in accident in Wood Fen – 10 09 16a & b

1910 09 16

The past week has been marked by an unusual number of fatalities. At Huntingdon a poor woman in a fit of insanity cut the throat of her infant child and then committed suicide. At Littleport a little girl of six years of age was run over by a farm cart and killed. A Stansted carpenter was knocked down by an express train and the body of a St Ives man was found in the river at Huntingdon. The Over mail cart driver blew his nose and immediately fell to the ground dead, probably caused by the rupturing of a blood vessel in the brain 10 09 16c

1910 11 04

A Salvation Army wedding was solemnized at the Wesleyan Chapel, Littleport. The parties wore Salvation Army costumes relieved in the case of the bride by a large cream sash. After the singing of 'What a Friend we have in Jesus' the bridal party took their place on the platform behind the pulpit. Two babies started crying but did not disturb the proceedings. The Army flag was held over the couple as the ceremony continued and a collection was taken as a marriage dowry. Afterwards the couple left by carriage for a wedding banquet. In the evening a 'bridal march' processed through the streets followed by a public gathering in the Salvation Army Hall. 10 11 04f

1911 03 10

Joel Stubbings, landlord of the Spade and Beckett, Littleport told an inquest that after the usual customers had gone away the deceased had said he felt weak and low and had asked permission to lie down in the chaff house. Joel said to get some chaff bags and wrap himself in them and pull some of the rough hay over him, adding that next day he should go back to the Workhouse. By morning the man was dead. Police-Sergt Wright said he found an old pocket handkerchief with a shilling tied up in one corner, an old clay pipe, some cough lozenges and a small tooth comb in his pocket. The jury decided he'd died from heart failure 11 03 10a

1911 06 30

The Red White and Blue Helping Hand Slade Club at Lt Downham raised funds by weekly subscriptions to render assistance to members unable to follow their employment. A man injured when working for the Littleport Drainage Commissioners said he had been incapacitated for seven weeks. After a fortnight the club refused him more sick pay and then threw him out for dinking. But the rules said the first time a claimant was intoxicated he should be fined sixpence so he took the case to court and was awarded judgement against them. 11 06 30b

1911 07 28

Littleport Show held in the grounds of Highfield House was a gratifying success. A great many were attracted by the announcement that an aeroplane flight would be attempted and they were not disappointed. The machine – one of the Bleriot type belonging to the Midland Aviation Syndicate – was wheeled to an adjacent field and the aviator made several flights. He would have continued longer but for an accident to the propeller, one of the arms having broken in the course of a descent. The machine was exhibited in a tent until five o'clock when it was wheeled out. A force of police kept the crowd under control. A large field was selected for the start. The fen men, who had never seen an aeroplane before, described it as 'like a self-binder'. There was a large cheer when the aviator took his seat and started the engine. In the first attempt the machine travelled from one end of the field to the other at a height of about 15 feet. It then headed towards Lt Downham and rose beautifully while the crowd cheered. It

had travelled some hundreds of yards when the aviator, for reasons best known to himself, descended in a field of corn. In order to facilitate a start for another ascent the aeroplane was taken to a clover patch. There was a considerable delay and the majority of the crowd had returned to the show ground when the machine was seen again to rise to 50 feet but then the aviator planed down to earth again. It did not descend so well as on previous occasions and it was reported that an accident had happened. A proportion of the propeller had broken off. This put an end to the flying and the crowd dispersed, satisfied that a flight had really been made 11 07 28c

1911 07 28

Littleport show aeroplane flights – 11 07 28j

1911 10 06

Littleport doctor car accident with horse at Southery – 11 10 06c

1911 10 13

A mysterious epidemic has broken out at Littleport. Eighteen cases of the disease, thought to be 'spotted fever', have occurred and four people have died. It has appeared in eleven households, attacking children from 18 months to eight years of age. The schools are being closed and the Littleport pupils of the Ely High School for Girls are not allowed to attend. A report that the disease has also made an appearance at Haddenham is without foundation 11 10 13e

1912 01 19

Littleport blacksmith, Gotobed, in court – 12 01 19a

1912 02 09

The weather was brilliant and the ice splendid for the race for Littleport Skating Club's 50-guinea challenge cup. There was a strong wind blowing down the course, the winner of the toss having the advantage of the shelter of the spectators after the last turn, this accounting for one or two wins. This wind made the necessity of three races a trying ordeal. After a dispute over the toss in the final round C.Brett lead all the way but Greenhall, by crossing over and finishing up on the wrong side of the course was placed fourth. 12 02 09c & d

1912 08 02

Mr W. Cutlack of Littleport had generously offered his house, The Grange as a sanatorium to accommodate 100 patients suffering from tuberculosis. He and his family had lived happily there for 14 years and now they'd decided to leave they though its only proper use would be the prevention of the scourge of consumption. Some years ago if a man became stricken he was regarded as dead, but now with proper treatment he might recover. Medical officers had been over to see it and considered it better than any other place in Cambridgeshire. But two-thirds of the local villagers were against it. 12 08 02b, bb, c, ccc

1912 08 30

Littleport suffered badly in the heavy and continuous rain. The rushing water from the Hemp field flooded the main street between the Granby Hotel and Hitches Street, running into the shops of Mr Fitch and Mr Secker. The steam fire engine made some attempt to pump the water away, but was not very successful. At Haddenham the inhabitants were aroused by the 'Town Crier', Mr Pope, who called upon every man to go down to the Cut Bank or the fen would be 'drownded'. After toiling for hours with railway sleepers the danger was averted. But the crops were partly submerged and the water entered farm cottages forcing several families to beat a retreat 12 08 30n

1912 08 30

The Mile Bank at Littleport has been flooded as never before since the draining of the fens has been carried out by machinery. When the Fen engines needs overhauling the work is invariably carried out in the summer when, under normal circumstances, their services are not required. It is a slice of bad luck that it is undergoing repair just when it is wanted and hence water is remaining on thousands of acres. The Commissioners are taking steps to substitute another kind of engine. Meanwhile harvest operations are out of the question except where the labourers are working in top-boots 12 08 300

1912 11 22

Pumps of the new engine installed at Ten Mile Bank by Littleport and Downham Commissioners were started for the first time. It was 1819 when they erected their first engine here, it was of 30 hp driving a water wheel. This was replaced by an 80 hp engine in 1840 with new boilers in 1878 and bigger scoop wheels two years later. The drainage of the future would be more difficult owing to the land settling in some places and several drains would have to be diverted to avoid the hills. 12 11 22

1913 01 24 CIP

Bankruptcy court – Ebeneezer Cornwall, Annesdale Ely builder, Thomas Thornhill Littleport butcher, Kennett farmer David Bowyer, George Newman Stuntney solicitor,

1913 01 31 CIP

Littleport Fen & Dairy Houses school,

1913 02 07

Coal merchant Frank Luddington said when the flap of a truck of coal standing on the line at Littleport station was let down a quantity fell on to the road. He went to pick it up next day, but it had gone. Then he noticed a G.E.R. condemned sawdust sack standing near a weighbridge and nearby were two bags of Bentinck Best Derby House coal, the same as had fallen from the truck. A coal hawker working for Thomas Summerlee had collected them. The man said it was a mistake, and the case was dismissed. 13 02 07 p11

1913 02 14

The Grange at Littleport had been offered to the County Council as a sanatorium for the treatment of tuberculosis. But the situation is unsuitable and the water supply inadequate. Mr Cutlack should be thanked for his generous offer. 13 02 14 p11 CIP

1913 02 21

Littleport cycle agent bankruptcy

1913 03 07

Littleport Sutton cycle manufacturer's sale

1913 03 14

Littleport cycle agent, Sutton, in Australia

1913 05 09

Littleport death Ald Joseph Martin Littleport cycle dealers

1913 05 30

Ebenezer Driver, an Isleham gravel and shingle merchant told the court he owned 16 lighters and a steam tug. He'd delivered eleven lighter loads of sand and gravel to Southery for the Methwold & Feltwell Drainage Board to use as concrete at the pumping station. Heber Martin, surveyor of Littleport said he'd measured the barges and worked out the amount supplied. Joseph Whitehead said he'd carted it from the lighters. But the Board disputed the

quantity. The suggestion that being fenland it had acted as a quick-sand and swallowed up the materials could not be accepted since the ground was so hard people could not get a pick into it. It was possible more sand and gravel had been used in making the concrete than they'd allowed for. 13 05 30 p8 CIP

1913 06 06

St Matthew's Church, Littleport was built in 1878 to accommodate some 250 persons, but on Sunday the seats were nearly all empty. The congregation numbered 17 in all with only two grown-ups, Miss Gilbert who plays the harmonium and a young man, the remainder being children. The bell was rung by one of the children, the parishioner who usually undertook that duty having stayed away. The vicar's churchwarden was also conspicuous by his absence and the choir seats were empty. The vicar has been charged with writing an obscene letter to the unmarried daughter of a well-known fen farmer. 13 06 06 p8 CIP

1913 07 25

Littleport St Matthew vicar's case 13 07 25 p7 CIP

1913 08 01

Littleport vicar guilty of offence 13 08 01 Flower show, Littleport, Romsey Town, Isleham Cherry Hinton

1913 08 08

Littleport St Matthew vicar deprived

1913 08 15

Ely R.D.C. heard that a cottage on the Mildenhall Road, Littleport was thatched with rotten straw and the rain came through the roof. The sides of the building were boarded and in a bad state. It was also overcrowded. There was a large manure heap placed near a drain, the water in which was used for drinking purposes. At Lt Downham the rent of cottages with a fair amount of garden, suitable for the working classes, was too high for those engaged in agricultural pursuits. It was impossible to build a six-roomed house to let for only £7. But cottages could be built cheaper on waste land. 13 08 15 p11 CIP

1913 09 12

Joseph Martin Littleport will

1913 11 21

Isle of Ely County Council – smallholdings report including Downham, Haddenham, Littleport, Stretham, Police cottage at Wilburton

1913 12 05

Littleport diphtheria

A report on payment for rats destroyed showed about 6,000 rats had been killed in Stretham, Haddenham, and Little Downham, but nearly ten-times that number in Littleport – as usual. It was unfair that other parishes should have to pay for Littleport rats. But they were the only parish to do its duty thoroughly. Mr G. Darby said the rats came to his mill and did a lot of damage. But Mr A. Darby said ratepayers were paying for the tails more than once. His brother who kept a mill at Pymore would not pay a penny for rat killing as long as the Council did it for him

1913 12 19

Littleport inquest Robert Norman, labourer

1914 06 26

Rural workers union, Littleport p11

1914 07 17

County Show.—The 51st annual show of the Cambridgeshire and Isle of Ely Agricultural Society was held at Ely on Tuesday in glorious weather. This year's exhibition will certainly rank among the Society's successes, for not only were the entries well up to the average, but, thanks to the fine weather, the attendance was very satisfactory, whilst the quality of the exhibits was high The show was held in a paddock just off the Littleport road, kindly placed at the disposal of the Society by Mr T, B. Granger. There was an unusually fine display of implements. So far as the entries were concerned there was a good average in the Shires and Hackneys, some of the classes being very strong. Quite a record was set up in the cattle section, the dairy cattle being an especially fine lot. In one class there were 19 entries, although in some of the others the numbers were not so satisfactory. After an interval of 12 years pigs were re-introduced, but probably owing to the fact not being very widely known, the entries were not so .large as might have been expected. If the restrictions permit, the prizes will be continued another year, when it may be confidently anticipated the section will be better supported. The arrangements were admirably carried out, while the judging gave very general satisfaction – 1914 07 17 CIPof

1914 07 24 Littleport show Littleport Methodist convention

1914 10 02

A waterman employed by Feltwell Drainage Commissioners said he was leading a horse which was drawing four barges down the river to Ely. Near Littleport bridge his companion shouted that Fred had fallen overboard. He immediately stopped the horse but the barges went on for another 50 yards. He ran back but failed to reach the man with a hook. If they had a 'cock-boat' they might have saved him, but the Commissioners did not supply one. 14 10 02

1914 10 02

There was a great need of a mortuary for the Littleport area together with a post-mortem room. At present bodies have to be placed in barns and outhouses where they are liable to be gnawed by rats and bitten by fleas and other insects. A proper hygienic place should be provided for the reception of bodies upon which it is necessary to hold inquests, Ely RDC was told. 14 10 02

1914 10 09

Littleport house breaking

1914 11 06

Belgians – Littleport, Burwell, Chatteris, Duxford, Comberton, Sawston, Elsworth, Fen Drayton, Swavesey, Fordham, West Wickham, Wicken, Gamlingay, Willingham, Madingley, Isleham, Landbeach, Linton, Lode, Oakington

1914 11 20 Littleport – invalid, recruiting, Belgians

1914 11 27

Ely recruiting, Littleport Constitutional Hall patriotic songs William Dennis, roadman drowned in drain on Mildenhall Road, Littleport; had visited Rising Sun where had three pints

1914 12 11

Emergency committees have been appointed to act in concert with the military authorities in case of invasion. That for the Isle of Ely is headed by Mr C. Bidwell and includes Mr

Luddington of Littleport, F. Harlock, of Ely A.E. Wright of Haddenham & Owen Ambrose of Stuntney. Their powers include the removal of livestock, vehicles and foodstuffs from the scene of operations and facilitating the passage of troops through the area

1915 09 03

Littleport vicar Rogers to retire

1915 09 10

Littleport harvest accident, Pettit killed on reaper

1916 02 02

Farewell. — The Rev. N. W. Shelton, who has accepted the living of the parish of Littleport, preached his farewell sermon to the parishioners of St. Andrew's, Chesterton, on Sunday. Mr. Shelton has been at Chesterton for 13 years, and there were large con-gregations at both morning and evening services

1918 11 06

Volunteers Court-Martialled— at a court-martial at Littleport, eight men of the Littleport Platoon of the 3rd Volunteer Battalion. Cambridgeshire Regiment, were charged under the new Corps Rules with absenting themselves from drill without leave. These were first offences, and fines varying from 5s- to 7s. 6d. were inflicted. Some surprise and not a little consternation has been caused by this mode of dealing with absentees (writes a correspondent), and it is not generally known that the Volunteer Authorities are only acting on instructions recently received from the War Office. Any volunteer, moreover, who fails to pay the fine inflicted within 14 days, may be dealt with in a civil court.

1919 08 27

Littleport agricultural labourers protest at German prisoners of war, threatens serious trouble $-19\,08\,27d$

1920 05 26

Inquest George Godfrey, Littleport draper

1920 07 23

Boy crushed by traction engine at Littleport

1920 08 16

Littleport Agricultural Workers' Union meeting

1922 06 14

The "pros and cons" of a proposed joint water scheme were reviewed at a public inquiry convened by the Ministry of Health held at Ely. Mr H.J.Martin explained that for the most part the inhabitants of Littleport drank water from the River Ouse. Mr A.K. Campbell put in an analyst's report to the effect that water from the Ouse taken four miles south of Littleport was polluted with sewage and was unfit for drinking purposes. Mr T.Peake: "I would like to remind you that Ely City empties its sewage into the waters which Littleport has to drink; also that last year the rivers were absolutely unfit for drinking purposes - they were stagnant and putrid". A feature of the enquiry was the stout opposition put up by the parishes of Haddenham, Wilburton, Stretham and Little Downham. A solitary supporter from Stretham explained that he did not attend a public meeting there - which was unanimous against the scheme - because had he done so he would probably have been "crucified"

1922 08 22

Of the opinion that the water supplies to the Ely rural district are "unsatisfactory and inadequate" the Ministry of Health consider that a new supply should be provided without

delay. The Ministry wrote in reference to an Inquiry in connection with the application of the Rural District Council for sanction to borrow money for the provision of a scheme of water supply. It is understood that the R.D.C. have now arranged for the provision of an additional reservoir at Littleport.

1922 09 15

Judging by the enthusiasm shown at the first meeting of the Littleport Women's Institute it is quite safe to assume that the branch is going to be a great success. 45 new members were enrolled, thus giving a satisfactory nucleus for the formation of a flourishing branch. Mrs Luddington stressed that it was non-political and undenominational and there were over 2,000 institutes throughout the country. A demonstration of basket and tray making was given by Mrs Comins and Mrs Covill. A "nonsense" competition caused great amusement, after which games and dancing were joined in by all.

1923 05 11

An undergraduate of Pembroke College, Cambridge was charged with driving a motor car at a speed dangerous to the public at Littleport. P.S. Neil stated that the car was on the right hand side of the road. He considers the speed was 55 to 60 miles the hour. He failed to take the number of the car, as there was too much grit and stones flying about caused by the speed. The undergraduate said when he got to Littleport there were two sharp bends and his speed then was about 10 miles per hour. When he got round the bend he dropped into second gear. He saw the policemen but they paid no attention to him. It was quite impossible to get up to 35 mph in second gear, which would probably break the engine. He knew there was a police trap at Littleport. Magistrates fined him £5.

1924 02 22

Ely Rural council received a letter asking if they would be willing to supply the parish of Southery with water, as their supply was unsatisfactory. An arrangement might be made whereby Downham district council laid the main to Littleport bridge and a meter be fixed at Brandon creek bridge and they could have all the water they wanted at 1s. per thousand gallons. Downham could supply all the houses on the route and lay a pipe under the river to supply Black Bank Drove.

1924 03 18

A serious fire broke out at the large chaff factory of Messrs Fyfe of Littleport. By the time the village fire brigade arrived the whole building was a mass of flames. Throughout the night they gave their full attention to the building but were unable to save any of the valuable machinery inside, including a secret invention for meal making, known to be the only one in the world. In a very few hours all that remained was the mangled and twisted iron frames of the machinery, all of which was ruined.

1924 04 15

Mr T Peake said that at the present moment there was a library in Littleport, and he could assure them that there was hardly one book in it that he would care to find a place for in his home. For many years, he believed, it had not been used, but that did not alter the fact that there was a very strong desire for a supply of good books. The Isle of Ely county council was a very progressive one and he was sure that the members would not dare to go to their wives and tell them they had voted against the Carnegie scheme. It was very rarely a wife got anything out of the county council - but she would certainly get something from the libraries

1924 05 23

Great interest was taken in the opening of the new swimming bath at Littleport. The club which dates from the Coronation of King Edward perhaps did not cater for everybody, but it had done something to provide a place where the boys and girls could learn to swim. At one time it was very uncommon to see people swimming in the rivers, but now it was a very

common thing. The club had provided a magnificent baths for public use and organised the annual water sports which were always eagerly looked forward to.

1925 03 04

"We will shoot you – if you come up here". This was alleged to be the threat of two men who barricaded themselves in one of the bedrooms at the Marquis of Granby Hotel, Littleport at 2am and were eventually arrested by the police. The prisoners were charged with stealing a cash box containing about £100 in notes, gold & silver.

1925 03 12

PS Newell told the court that he saw the prisoners and, becoming suspicious, enlisted the services of various well-disposed people in Littleport, and surrounded the Marquis of Granby Hotel, which was to all intents and purposes in a state of siege. He invited the men to come out of their room but the reply he got was, "If you attempt to force the door we shall shoot". In fairness to the prisoners it should be said that when they were arrested no forearms were found upon them. In their endeavour to get away they had drawn the bedstead up to the window and knotted the sheets with the view of lowering themselves to the ground.

1925 07 29

The Vicar said he had a vision. Littleport was growing. There were houses in which people lived that were not suitable for habitation or for a sick person to be kept in, especially a mother who was about to be confined. He wanted to see a hospital with four or five beds where expectant mothers could go to and be watched over with loving care, freed from the anxieties of home troubles. With a doctor and a trained nurse at hand the mother would be afforded untold relief. Littleport could rise to the expense and carry the scheme through.

1925 09 12

At Ely police court Albert Coulson of Stansted was summoned for driving a locomotive at a speed over the two miles per hour limit on the highway at Littleport. Police Sergeant Moon said he considered defendant was travelling at eight mph, and he got on his bicycle, caught up and stopped him. The latter said he was doing four mph and could not do eight mph. The policeman said he had seen locomotives go even faster than that. Fined 10s

1925 11 17

Mr Sidney William Washington, of Littleport, was a member of the crew of the great submarine M1, which was reported to have sunk with all hands off the Devonshire coast. It means the breaking of a happy romance, for only three months ago he was married. To the young wife and his parents the news came as a great shock. They first gained the sad information from the daily newspapers and official confirmation was forthcoming from the naval authorities when a letter was received that no hope was entertained for the crew's survival. An invitation was extended to them to attend a funeral service at Portsmouth. In Cambridge the deepest sympathy will be felt for Mrs M.G. Philpott, whose eldest son was aboard the M1 when she made her last dive.

1925 12 29

The Water Engineer submitted a scheme to Ely RDC for the extension of water supply to Haddenham. He recommends the erection of a reinforced concrete water tower with a capacity of 100,000 gallons as the existing towers at Littleport and Sutton. The site chosen is the corner of a field at the back of the Rectory House, abutting the bowling green. There are other convenient sites but this is nearer to the existing pipeline and enables it to be laid straight to the tower without unnecessary curves or awkward bends.

1926 01 21

An action for breach of promise of marriage was brought against a Littleport cinema proprietor. In 1923 he started a concert party known as "The Passing Fancies" at Littleport and toured a great number of places, the woman going with them. In the August he bought the cinema hall for £2,000 and she assisted by taking the money. In January 1924 he had received a box containing his mother's effects. He picked up his mother's engagement ring, put it on her finger and said, "That's your engagement ring". She had heard of his marriage in September 1925. The man said that she was one of his "passing fancies". The jury awarded her £400 damages.

1926 07 30

The Ouse Drainage Board is to apply for a grant of £70,000 in aid of works in the South Level district. Sir Frederick Hiam said that the money was only available for four years & if they neglected to take advantage of it their rivers would not get done. The greatest opposition was because the Littleport and Downham district would not pay as much as the other areas. He was a landowner in that district and would make up any difference rather than see the scheme fall to the ground.

1927 07 29

Messrs Hunt Bros, millwrights, Soham, sued Thomas Peake, corn merchant of Littleport, for work done. Defendant owned a mill at Littleport and had there two sets of stones. He needed a new bottom stone and a workman went to the mill and took the dimensions. But some mistake was made and the mew stone was found to be three or four inches too thick. That was a fatal defect. Their case was dismissed

1927 12 05

A fire which might have spread with serious consequences broke out at the Ely Beet Factory. The canteen, which is a wooden building used for sleeping quarters, was discovered to be on fire at 12.57 am and within 20 minutes a considerable portion was burned to the ground. Immediately on discovery of the outbreak a telephone message was sent to the police and they gave the alarm to the Ely, Cambridge and Littleport Brigades. Within 11 minutes Ely brigade was out of the station and arriving at the scene found the place burning very fiercely. They played on it with water from the Ouse, which flows by the factory. Fortunately the flames did not spread to the sugar store, which stands close by. All the occupants of the sleeping quarters managed to escape uninjured with the exception of the nephew of the canteen manager who sustained bad burning injuries to the face.

1928 06 30

The quay at Littleport was becoming considerably worse. It had been erected about 30 years ago by the officers of the South Level Commissioners but they could not ascertain whether they paid or whether someone else provided the money. Mr Martin had spoken to representatives of the Ely Sugar Beet Factory, who used the quay, and they would be prepared to contribute. If the quay tumbled in it would block up the river. If it was their property they were bound to maintain it. But they did not know if it was their property or not.

1929 02 20

A serious fire in which some valuable implements were destroyed occurred in a large hut at Whitehall Farm, Littleport. The Fire brigade were handicapped as the pipes were frozen and the whole of the structure was completely burnt out, including a 12 hp Alvis motor car, the axle and gear box of a Chevrolet lorry, a cultivator and set of harrows. Prompt action by Ely police & firemen averted a serious fire at the Bell Hotel Ely where a large beam behind a fireplace in one of the upstairs rooms had ignited. It was in a difficult position to get at and there was no alternative but to take the fireplace out.

1929 10 31

The 17 miles of river between Ely and Denver Sluice is in an appalling condition: it literally stinks and is covered with dead fish throughout its length. What was a beautiful river now resembles a sewer. When a barge passes it stirs up the water and the stench is horrible. It is a serious menace to public health for it is the only water supply for the cottages and farms above Littleport Bridge. The pollution is caused by the poisonous effluent discharged from the sugar beet factories. One has no wish to cripple the beet industry but this cannot be allowed to continue.

1930 04 10

Referee L. Sylvester complained of the conduct of the Littleport Football Club and their supporters when they played Wisbech Town. He said they followed him to the dressing-room, calling him 'everything under the sun', and threw pieces of mangold wurzel at him. But the Club Secretary complained that he was incompetent and his decisions 'bordered on the ridiculous'. The linesman had awarded a goal that was offside and used bad language. The club had been running for over 25 years and had only had one player ever reported. It was warned and the linesman suspended. 30 04 10

1931 05 01

Bert Washington of Littleport applied for a licence to continue to run a bus service to Cambridge in competition with Ortona. He allowed an hour for the journey of 21 miles but this was described as too fast and they were told to look at the times again. It was opposed by the Railway Companies who had a working agreement with Ortona: they felt it would be more efficient if directed by the larger company. Joseph Lofts runs a small bus between the station and Littleport villages. 31 05 01e

1931 12 11

Mr L.J. Parker of Reliance Motor Services, Cottenham, applied for a licence to continue to run a bus service to Willingham. Last year they carried over 19,000 passengers, chiefly workpeople carried on weekly tickets. Mr B. Washington of Littleport applied to continue a service to the Ely Beet Sugar Factory although last year had seen a substantial drop owing to big reductions in the factory staff. 31 12 11d

1932 01 07

Scouting is progressing with new troops at Haddenham and Lt Downham, but the 1st Ely Troop has been disbanded owing to the inability to find a scoutmaster and four of their bugles are missing. The Littleport scoutmaster had also left and they were unable to find anyone else suitable. While the new bridge was being built at Adelaide one boy fell into the river but Scout Butcher held him up although he was gradually being pulled in himself. Without his help the other boy would have been drowned. 32 01 07

1932 03 04

It is distressing to hear the condition under which some people in Littleport are living. In many cases there are two families sharing one five-room house while a man, wife and three children occupy a three-roomed house with only one bedroom. They have applied for council houses, but the parish council decided they did not want any more built at present. 32 03 04

1932 07 29

Littleport was plunged into gloom after a fatal accident at the Show. A man died when his parachute became entangled in the rudder of the plane. The machine at once tail dived and drifted backwards over an oatfield. The right-hand wing struck the ground and the propeller dug into the soil. The pilot lay bleeding and about 30 feet from the tail was a mark caused by the body of the parachutist striking the ground. His wristwatch was still going. 32 07 29f

1932 08 05

Nearly 200 troops arrived at Ely for the voluntary camp of the Cambridgeshire Territorials. On Tuesday they marched to a field on the Littleport Road where the men engaged in machine gun work while trained machine-gunners were taking ranges from the water tower. The men have been accommodated in the old Barracks while the officers' mess has been at the Lamb Hotel where in accordance with the old Militia tradition the band has played outside in the evenings. All the catering has been done with local tradesmen, which has been much appreciated. 32 08 05a

1932 09 02

Ernest Bevan opened the new wing of the Transport and General Workers' Convalescent Home at Littleport. It includes a billiard room, dining room, recreation rest room and ten bedrooms. The whole of the old building has been redecorated and with its well-laid-out gardens is now an ideal spot for invalid workers to recover their health. The Union purchased the site in September 1920 for £2,500, the Home opened in May 1921and 9,000 men have passed through it. 32 09 02c

1933 03 30

Plantation Farm, Littleport, death on light railway, Shippea Hill – 33 03 30b

1933 07 20

Black Horse Drove school becomes badly flooded, not only with surface water but with sewage, councillors heard. Since so many more houses had been built on the higher land at Littleport a tremendous amount of sewage comes down whenever they got a heavy storm and settles in the playground. Tenders were received for the erection of a branch library at March together with a new senior school which will be named the Hereward School 33 07 20

1933 11 11

Littleport potato merchant action – 33 11 11

1933 11 25

The Transport and General Workers' Union was awarded a reduction in rates at their Littleport home, one of four big convalescent homes for free treatment run by the Union. It was not a source of revenue and used for an entirely charitable purpose. It was having 1,000 patients per year and the number of beds was 90. If the appeal failed it might quite possibly cease to function. 33 11 25

1934 01 08

A film entitled 'Cambridge and the University Town, directed by Peter Collin of Newmarket is a twelve-minute pictorial survey with shots of the backs, boating scenes and Grantchester. He had the collaboration of R. Colville-College, an undergraduate of King's. The photography, which reaches a very high standard, is by S.W. Bowler who shows considerable promise. The film, released by Equity British Films will be shown in Ely, Littleport and Newmarket. As a lad Mr Collin assisted in the operating box of the Victoria Cinema and is now a director of Argyle Talking Pictures. 34 01 08

1934 04 20

Controversy has raged in Ely over the various streets and roads that have been re-named during the last century. By the kindness of one of the oldest inhabitants we are able to give the names by which some were previous known: Present name Market Street, old name: Gaol Street; Barton Road – Smock Mill Alley; Mill Pits – Gallows Hill Pits (where five Littleport rioters were hung; Cresswells – Common Muck Hill; Springhead Lane – Spion Cop; High Street Passage – Tallow Lane 34 04 20

1934 11 02

Branch Cut bridge at Padnal was originally constructed by the South Level Commissioners in 1827 and kept in repair until recently. A little while ago it collapsed and was now barely passable even for foot passengers whereas in the past it had always been maintained for wheeled traffic. It was a great benefit to all engaged in farming in the area between Littleport and Ely and its present condition was a scandal, councillors were told.34 11 02 & a

1934 12 15

Littleport Parish Council considered fitting their fire engine with pneumatic tyres. The wheels had been on the engine for 70 years and might have dry rot, all the wheels creaked and might break at any time. The men were afraid of them. In any case they would be compelled to have rubber tyres in 1939. The fire box was only seven inches from the ground and it would be no good on some of the fen roads. They could ask the Ely Fire Brigade how much they would charge to attend the fen fires, and scrap the engine. 34 12 15a

1934 12 20

Traffic Commissioners considered bus services between Ely and Littleport, Little Ouse and Shippea Hill. The LNER said that railway traffic to Littleport had showed a marked decrease with 4,000 passengers being lost to road competition in the last few years. But Mr Bert Washington said his bus services were practically identical with those he operated in 1930, though there were some unauthorised journeys not at the agreed times. 34 12 20b

1935 04 12

Architect conspiracy charge over houses Hale Drove Littleport – 34 04 12 & a & 35 04 16

1935 04 12

The court heard that in 1933 Ely RDC had appointed a Cambridge architect to oversee the construction of 20 houses at Camping Close, Littleport. Local firms had tendered for the work. An auditor discovered that the cost of fitting out 12 houses came to £839 but payment of £3,174 had been authorised including £3,012 to the builder personally. The architect said he'd taken the prices from lists and was not aware that the contractors got them so cheap. A witness saw £50 being handed to a builder in one-pound notes, no receipt was requested but the architect asked for a blank billhead. Another firm also working on the site did not want anything in writing about it. 35 04 12 & a

1935 04 26a

Burnt Fen Drainage Commissioners presented James Luddington, formerly of Audley House Littleport, with a silver salver on his retirement as Chairman after 50 years. His father and grandfather had filled the post before him back to 1849. Sir Frederick Hiam said this was unique in drainage history of the fens. They were now one of the best-drained districts for which Mr Luddington deserved the greatest credit 35 04 26a

1935 12 06

Mildenhall water, Littleport electricity – 35 12 06a

1936 01 03

Ely RDC has accepted tenders from Messrs Grensells of Kettering for wiring council houses in Ely Road and West End Sutton, Tower Road, Main Street and Cross Lane Downham, the Cambridge and Ely Roads in Stretham together with Hill Row, Hop Row and Station Road, Haddenham, Millfield Littleport and Haddenham Road at Wilburton. The Beds., Cambs. & Hunts Electricity Company will make a connection charge of £1 for each of the 94 houses—36 01 03c

1936 02 06

Demolition of property on the top corner, Haddenham would improve visibility for traffic proceeding from Wilburton to Sutton but a more comprehensive improvement could be

effected if the adjoining baker's shop in Hop Row could be acquired. Councillors recommended it be acquired and demolished and the existing kerb and footpath line be set back seven feet. At Littleport there would be a small piece of land to spare after improvement at the junction of High Street and Hempfield Road which could be used for the erection of a public convenience. But there will be no more traffic lights as these are an expensive luxury 36 02 06

1936 04 16

The Isle of Ely County Council is to purchase Bulldog Bridge Farm, Littleport containing 172 acres with eight cottages and two sets of farm buildings from Sir Frederick Hiam. It is an ideal farm for smallholdings as the fields adjoin the Littleport-Mildenhall Road and the farm is within half-a-mile of Shippea Hill station and in excellent state of cultivation. 36 04 16a

1936 06 04

Nine dwellings in Victoria Street, Littleport should be demolished an Inquiry was told. They were structurally unsound & had a permanent dampness in the walls and floors which were below ground level. Access to the bedrooms was by ladder, the plaster on the ceilings broken and the walls were bulging badly. But owners said they were wind and water tight, each had lavatory accommodation & there had been no case of illness attributable to sanitary defects in the last 40 years. The tenants were employed on lands in Burnt Fen and had no complaints to make. 36 06 04a

1936 12 23

Littleport's new Regal Cinema is an entirely new building designed on the most up-to-date lines and presents an imposing appearance. The decoration is on ultra-modern lines with bowl lamps in spray plastic and an illuminated clock. All the chairs from the 'sixpennies' to the 'two-shillings' are comfortable, the armrests being sprung with Dunlopillo. The projector is by Kalee while the sound equipment by British Talking Pictures employs three speakers. It will show the finest films and has a park for 100 cars 36 12 23b

1937 03 15

The next 25 hours are the critical period in the fight against flood waters which are threatening a large area of fenland near Littleport following the recent heavy rain and high spring tides. A night and day watch is being kept on the rivers around Denver Sluice. Dredgers and barges are standing by ready to stop any gaps. The water has been over the banks in several places, but so far there has been no breach. Flood conditions have prevailed for eight weeks now – the longest period in living memory. The superintendent of Mildenhall Fen pumping station had no sleep over the weekend where the sodden condition of the banks has heightened anxiety. 37 03 15a

1937 04 08

Public conveniences are absolutely necessary in Littleport. It was a town of over 4,000 inhabitants, many people from the surrounding area visited for shopping, there was an up-to-date cinema and hundreds paraded the streets on Saturday evenings. Tenants of licensed houses made a practice of locking the gates of their toilets to prevent the public using them and there was no accommodation for woman. But opponents said the chosen site was away from the shopping centre, there was no footpath and people would need to cross the main road to get there. It was near a butcher's shop and would tend to the breeding of flies. They would be better underground. 37 04 08

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1937 04 30

During the peak of the floods the river in Littleport rose to such an extent that several layers of sandbags were laid along Lynn Road to keep the water in. But a crowd of 250 people in a 'rough temper' had started to remove them. They claimed the bags had caused their houses to be flooded out and they didn't see why others shouldn't be flooded as well. They'd tried to stop River Board officials replacing them. This was a very serious matter as it would have harmed many people and caused damage in the fen 37 04 30b

1937 06 04

Southery coal merchant trading at Littleport – 37 06 04

1937 06 10

The reconstruction of four bridges, Popeleys Bridge (Wisbech), Slade Lode Bridge (Chatteris). Brands Bridge and Benwick Bridge will be deferred as contractors cannot obtain the necessary steel for the work. But estimates the reconstruction of the road between Littleport Bridge and Brandon Creek were accepted by the Isle of Ely council. An application by Stretham Parish Council for a speed limit through the village and the widening of the Fordham Road near Green End was granted. 37 06 10b

1937 07 14

During recent floods the water in the Hundred Foot Washes had been held up causing great hardship to occupiers. Yet their drainage charges have greatly increased. The water is let into the Wash area through the Seven Holes Sluice at Earith. But Welmore Lake Sluice which had only been built about five years is unable to cope. The Hundred Foot should be dredged: at Littleport it was only 30 feet wide. Alternatively the water should be let through the Hermitage Sluice into the Old West River and then out at Denver Sluice. But the washes were there for the express purpose of taking flood waters and grazing land was hired under those conditions. The problem is that rivers in the uplands have been cleared meaning water arrives in about a day, whereas it used to take a week. 37 07 14 & a

1938 02 10

Bert Washington, Littleport bus proprietor in court over disposal of coaches – 38 02 10b

1938 06 24

Littleport swimming bath to reopen – 38 06 24d

1938 07 08

Littleport, Sutton, Downham & Thetford councils want more houses – 38 07 08a

1938 08 05

Ely RDC receives tenders for houses at Coveney, West End & Duck Lane Haddenham, Witchford, Downham, Littleport & Lt Ouse. Wilburton school & ditch Carpond Lane 38 08 05c

1938 09 02

Ely RDC heard that there had been no decoration of the inside of their houses at Littleport for 20 years, although sometimes a good tenant would paint. There was a pressing need for housing and they accepted a tender of £2,250 for the erection of six at Wilburton. The present sewerage system had served the village satisfactorily for 30 years so if the Church wanted to build a new school in Carpond Lane they should pipe the ditch at their own expense 38 09 02

38 09 15

Road improvements, Ten Mile Bank Road, Littleport

1938 10 05

At Ely, 16,600 respirators were assembled at Woolworth's but there was a shortage of smaller ones and none at all for infants. The W.I. and Mothers' Union made plans for evacuating 500 children under five, they would be placed in Ely Badminton and W.I Halls and Littleport Constitutional Hall. Tradesmen report a brisk trade for black-out material and corrugated iron for dug outs. The drill hall is practically encased with sandbags and a pit for the anti-aircraft guns prepared in the parade ground. In event of an air raid the Ely Jam Factory siren will be sounded 38 10 05aa

1939 01 28

The fenland flood situation is very serious, with water six feet above normal. Patrols are watching the banks day and night and additional engineers have been sent in. At Littleport and Prickwillow waters have encompassed a number of properties and the occupants are preparing to evacuate. With further rain there would be as serious a threat of flooding as in 1937. Pumps at St Germans were operating at full throttle and Denver is pumping 11 out of 12 hours 39 01 28a

1939 01 31

Flood levels in the fens remain high. At Waterbeach the Town Crier made a call for volunteers and rallied forty men to work on the banks of the Bottisham Lode. At Littleport station sleepers are covered and only the tops of the lines are showing. Goods trucks are standing with water beneath them. In the Holmes inhabitants have left before their houses were surrounded. At Swavesey Mow Fen and Middle Fen railway gatehouses have had to be evacuated. $39\ 01\ 30a$ pic Holmes flooding $-\ 39\ 01\ 31$

1939 02 08

Flood waters from the Ouse at Littleport have caused residents of a number of houses in the Station Road area to either evacuate their homes or live upstairs. It is not the first time this has happened and despite protests nothing has been done. Now ratepayers are demanding action. The council are proposing to build a concrete wall, three feet high. But residents from the Holmes believe this would tend to flood their properties even more. Sewage matter from the homes was emptied on the gardens and it would be easy for bacteria to get into the flood waters 39 02 08a

1939 07 07

Two Littleport wireless and electrical dealers trading as the Granby Service Company in bankruptcy court – 39 07 07a

1939 09 20

The proprietor of the Empire Cinema, Littleport told the court he'd been a cinema manager at various towns in the Midlands, then been told about the Littleport cinema. Business was very good to start with but then his wife was taken ill and two months after the opened the cinema caught fire and was partly destroyed. The cause was never discovered. After rebuilding business was not so good because harvest time was approaching. Then creditors began pressing and one obtained a bankruptcy notice. 39 09 20d

1939 12 20

Three men were sent for trial charged with stealing a wooden tool box containing various tools, a grease gun, a copper funnel, a crowbar, two tins of grease, a pair of gauntlet gloves and a five gallon drum of paraffin oil, the property of Messes Masters & Co at Upwell. The box was found in long grass down the embankment near the Suspension Bridge on the

Littleport-Welney Road. They were further charged with stealing seven bags of potatoes, the property of Levi Goose 39 12 20

1940 03 02

Appleby's Stores, Littleport in court over packet cheese – 40 03 02b, c

1942 03 22

Ninety Last Monday, — Mr. Wm. Cutlack of Cambridge Road, Ely, reached the age of 90 last Monday (writes Watchman). In local government he has played a prominent part, and he was known as "father" of the County Council. As a young man Mr, Cutlack became associated, with the brewery established at Waterside, Ely, by the late Mr. Frank Harlock, and which today trades under the name of Hall, Cutlack and Harlock. He is a native of Littleport and was one of the original members of the Isle County Council, having attended the first meeting when the council came into being in 1889. In 1931 he was made an Alderman and in that year he presented to the Council the official arms of the county. Ald. Cutlack was presented with an illuminated transcript of the minutes as testimony of the esteem and regard which the Aldermen and Councillors entertained for the high character and faithful service, which, as administrator and High Sheriff, he had rendered to the county during a period of 40 years. For 14 years he served on the Ely Urban District Council and from 1913 to 1918 he occupied the chair,

1942 05 22

Parting Gift—The gift of a sum of money subscribed by members of the congregation of the parish church (St. Ives) and friends were presented to the Rev. W. Hum last week. With the good wishes of all, he has taken up duties at Littleport

1942 07 10

Married 50 years. — Mr. and Mrs. T. Fuller, of 6 David Street, Cambridge, celebrated their golden wedding anniversary on Thursday. They were married at St. John's Church, Littleport, on July 7, 1892, Mrs. Fuller being a native of that Isle village and Mr. Fuller of Soham. He is 74 years of age and his wife 70. He was a bricklayer by trade, and they came to Cambridge when the New Theatre was being built, Mr. Fuller working on the job. They were members of the Salvation Army for 40 years, and Mr. Fuller has been a member of the Brotherhood for 20 years. Having retired, Mr. Fuller now makes gardening his hobby, and both attend the Mill Road Baptist Church. They have had two sons and three daughters, and have eight grandchildren and two great-grandchildren.

1942 11 06

Twins set a problem. — I hear (writes Watchman) that Ptes. Ethel and Elsie Cole, 19-year-old twin daughters of Mr. and Mrs. J. Cole, of Lynn Road, Littleport, resemble one another so closely that, their colleagues and N.C.O.s in the ATS, which they joined in January, for some time did not know there were two Ptes. Cole. Only their mother can distinguish them apart. The problem has now been solved in the Signals Mess where they work in the S.E. Command, by the cookhouse sergeant, who insists on their wearing different overalls.

1943 02 02

Edward Rose, Plantation Farm, Littleport, pilot, killed – 43 02 02

1943 12 24

Champion "Needle-clicker," — Champion "needle clicker" is Mr, Harry Chapman, of Globe Lane, Littleport. So far in this war (writes Watchman) his needles have put together no less than 1,367 ounces of wool in the shape of various garments for the Forces. A boot repairer, he does this in his spare time, and his needles are still clicking furiously. His up-to-date record

is: 187 pairs of socks, 15 pullovers, 14 helmets, 20 pairs of mittens, 45 pairs of gloves, 2 scarves, 14 pairs of seaboot stockings and two pairs of operation socks.

1944 07 28

Explosion Heroes Honoured. - Cambridgeshire people will feel a sense of keen satisfaction at the award of the George Cross - the civilian Victoria Cross—to two local men for their heroism in the ammunition train explosion at Soham last month. The awards were announced in the London Gazette. One of the men, Fireman James Nightall; aged 22, of the Hythe, Littleport, lost his life in the explosion. The other, Driver Benjamin Gimbert, aged 42, of 17, Estover Road, March, was severely injured, but was able to travel to Cambridge this week, accompanied by his wife, to receive the congratulations of his superiors on the award. The official citation said: "Gimbert and Nightall were fully aware of the contents of the wagon which was on fire and displayed outstanding courage in endeavouring to isolate it. There is no doubt that if the whole train had been involved, as it would have been but for the gallant action of the men concerned, there I would have been serious loss of life and property."

1947 06 02

Yesterday, in the little fen town of Soham, the memory of two railwaymen who three years ago gave their lives that the town might be saved from complete obliteration, was remembered and honoured by Soham people. Local people recalled how in the early hours of June 2nd 1944 fire broke out in an ammunition train standing in Soham station. Driver Benjamin Gimbert of March, and his fireman Mr E. Nightall of Littleport uncoupled the blazing wagon and started to shunt it away from the town. Signalman F. Bridges of Soham was about to warn other rail traffic in the area when the wagon containing high explosive bombs exploded. Soham station was completely wiped out and Nightall and Bridges were killed. On the spot where the station was now stands a pre-fab hut which serves as a booking office, waiting room and control centre. But the match-boarding wall of the hut now bears a brass tablet which tells the story of Soham's escape from destruction

1948 02 20

An £8,000 new "weapon" was officially added to the "armoury" of the drainage engineers fighting the never-ending battle of the fens. It is a 360 h.p. two-stroke diesel engine installed at the Ten Mile River Pumping Station near Littleport. Of the kind also used to generate electricity in ships it is the first in the country to be adapted by the makers for land drainage. Coupled to an already-existing pump at the station it will help to throw fen water into the river at the rate of 200 tons a minute. It replaces a steam engine installed in 1912

1948 03 12

Seven witnesses from fenland came to Cambridge to plead for better bus facilities to link their isolated homesteads with Ely market, but their case was preceded by a long hearing and the Traffic commissioners had time only to listen to two of them before adjourning the proceedings. Those unable to be heard waited from 11am to 6.30 pm. Before the Commissioners were applications by William Washington of Littleport to operate new stage carriage services between Black Horse Drove and Home Farm Drove (Hundred Foot Bank) and Ely. The applications were objected to by the Eastern Counties Omnibus Company. The applications were designed to cater for the area of fenland between Littleport and Southery, which, while highly productive agriculturally, was very isolated. At present it was practically uncatered for by a bus service

1948 05 11

The watching eyes of Britain's air defence went into action on Sunday in the biggest-scale Royal Observer Corps activity in the district since the war. Observer posts were manned at Cherry Hinton, Linton, Caxton, St Ives, Abbots Ripton, Littleport and elsewhere following the movements of jet fighters, Spitfires, Lancaster and Lincoln bombers and other types of

aircraft numbering over 100 aircraft put up by the RAF. At Linton I found the observers proud of their post, built at their own expense by their own labours during the war

1949 08 17

A Cambridge Centaur motor cycle club rider, B.G. Stonebridge, took most of the honours at a scramble organised at the Old Bank, Littleport. The meeting proved another big success and attracted 3,000 visitors. Much amusement was provided in the Vintage Machine race by the 25-year-old Scott machine, ridden by J.H. Diver, which careered round the course with large volumes of steam issuing from its radiator

1950 04 21

Magistrates were told that Mr Bell and his family of Littleport were having tea when a daughter cut a slice of bread from a new loaf. They saw some hairs and a little piece of flesh. The loaf was cut down the side and when opened there was a five-inch mouse just inside the crust. The baker gave them another loaf and the family were still trading with him. The baker said tf he had known there was a mouse in the bread he would not have sold that particular dough, because he would not wish to damage his goodwill and trade. 1951 03 03

A Littleport potato crisp manufacturer, carrying on business at Angle Works, Ely, told the Bankruptcy court he had started at Ely in March 1949; in July 1950 he was went with his wife for a holiday on a Mediterranean cargo boat. The business was left in the hands of his father and a friend, neither of whom was experienced. He came home to find the business closed down and most of the assets disposed of.

1954 06 06

Eastern Electricity says that more villages in the Ely area are to be connected to the public supply in the next six months. Already Mepal, Coveney, Pondersbridge and Ramsey Heights have been connected and Prickwillow, Barway and outlying parts of Haddenham and Littleport will follow. But it can only be economically justified if farmers recognise that electricity be used to the fullest extent as an aid to production and not just for lighting, radio and television. It increases their output and hastens the day when electricity can be made available throughout the whole of the countryside.

1954 08 11

The combination of perfect weather conditions, a record crowd of 4,000 people, an extended and improved circuit and some first-class riding made the scramble held on the Old Bank, Littleport the most successful yet staged by the Ely Motor Cycle Club. Jack Hubbard was a firm favourite as were Bud Ekins and Vern Hancock, two Americans riding under the Ely colours. John Baker, fast making a name for himself, also rode quite well

1955 03 11

A scheme for setting back and improving the banks of the Ely Ouse and Ten Mile River should be finished by 1958 and coincide with the completion of the Relief Channel. Homes accommodating 53 people are scheduled for demolition at Littleport and it is imperative that steps now be taken to provide new housing for them. If farm buildings are to be demolished early in 1956 farmers should be given notice so they have time to make alternative arrangements. 55 03 11a

1955 11 16

An Agricultural Land Tribunal was told that land at Drages Farm, Woodfen, Littleport was full of weeds and crops were poor and light; thorn hedges were overgrown and fences non-existent. No drainage work had been done and the land was waterlogged. The buildings were in a very bad state of repair and a cottage was unsuitable for a worker to live in. But the buildings were just as bad in 1935 and were ready for demolition then, crops had been drilled late because of the weather and gave a fair return in the circumstances. 55 11 16-c

1956 01 06

A policeman told the court he had seen lights in the window of the Railway Tavern, Littleport at 12.10 am; inside were three men playing dominoes and drinking from beer glasses. The landlord said they were friends who had got off the train after watching the England-Spain football match at Wembley and stopped to tell him about it. They had taken a glass of beer at his invitation without paying for it. They were each fined. 56 01 06a-c

1956 06 06

The pilot of a Mark 5 Vampire training jet based at R.A.F. Oakington was forced to bale out of his machine while flying over Littleport. He landed safely in Camel Road and the plane crashed at the side of a cornfield at Black Bank, Lt Downham causing a crater 15 feet deep. Norah Garner and Neville Constable ran to the wreckage and could see there was no one in it. The nose was sticking up in the air. 56 06 06a

1957 11 30

An inquest into a Littleport man heard he lived alone, was something of a recluse and antisocial. He was 'uncooperative' 'very awkward', 'strong-minded' and 'stubborn' and had insisted on leaving the Tower Hospital as he said doctors were giving him too many pills and were making him worse. He clearly knew what he was talking about. He'd told the matron "This place may be all right for some, but I can't stop here" 57 11 30

1958 01 09

Sandhill Bridge at Littleport is to be demolished and replaced with a wider one. Footpaths will be added to both side of the road over the bridge but the Ministry will not accept the cost of providing them. Now the Great Ouse River Board, which is responsible for the existing bridge, will meet County Councillors to see whether they would pay for them.58 01 09

1958 03 06

A March grocer told the bankruptcy court that at one time he had branches of his business in St Ives, Littleport & Downham Market. He also owned and ran a wholesale grocery business to keep his own shops supplied. He had been successful during the war due to assured profits and the absence of competition but now had a deficiency of £4,784 and was living on National Assistance. 58 03 06b

1958 04 11

Residents of New River Bank, Littleport, face 14 months without a means of crossing the river while Sandhill Bridge is replaced. They will not be able to get to their allotments and asked the Great Ouse River Board for a temporary footbridge. But this would be extremely expensive. The alternative would be to have a man and boat on duty. This would not be cheap, costing £750 a year, however one could be provided at pre-determined times each day $58\,04\,11a$

1958 12 19

Littleport may get a plastic-lined swimming pool similar to one at Bletchley. A parish meeting had agreed to the borrowing of £11,000 but because of the credit 'squeeze' the Government refused to allow it. When built it would be a very expensive, though probably necessary luxury running at an annual loss of about £200, councillors were told. 58 12 19c

1959 10 02

Mrs Hannah Grindling, 78, and her Littleport Over Sixties' Club Skiffle Band played at a concert in Cambridge Salvation Army Hall. The active folk from Fenland started with their signature tune, 'Happy Wanderer' and, led by Mrs Grindling on the accordion, showed their capabilities on other instruments such as the big drum and tambourines. The group was short of a few members (they normally comprise 21), but no one would have noticed.59 10 02b

1961 03 22

Alice Kent of Littleport 100 years old – 61 03 22a

1961 11 22

Electricity Board representatives will tour the isolated droves around Lt Downham, Pymore and Fodder Fen, Littleport seeking views on a scheme to bring electrification to the last few Fenland dwellers. Every hand shot up when the 130 people attending a meeting in Downham School were asked if they would like electricity. But the cost of bringing it to the Downham droves alone is over £50,000 61 11 22b

1961 12 08

The collared dove is a new and exciting addition to the birds of Cambridgeshire. The first of these invaders from Eastern Europe settled on the Norfolk coast about five years ago and nested successfully at Overstrand. But they were first recorded in Cambridgeshire only two years ago. Three broods have been recorded from a pair nesting in Littleport and another pair has been seen in Adams Road. It will be interesting to see how they will stand a really hard winter. 61 12 08b

1962 02 02

Littleport Riots & John Vachell – feature – 62 02 02

1962 09 27

The Littleport and Downham Drainage Commissioners first met at the Club Hotel, Ely, in 1756 and it was there they gathered for a celebration luncheon before driving five miles to Oxlode for the opening of a £65,000 all electric pumping station. Lord De Ramsey switched on two 320 hp motors capable of discharging 270 tons of water a minute. Together with two diesel-driven pumps they will serve one-third of the area they administer. Two more stations will be built near Denver Sluice and at Littleport to bring a big improvement to land that was suffering from poor drainage through the gradual wastage of the peat. 62 05 16 For at least 20 years Littleport has had a 24-hour ambulance service provided by public subscription. It was made possible by the co-operation of a local garage proprietor who had been responsible for the daytime running of the ambulance and the provision of the driver. St John Ambulance Brigade members and voluntary helpers had manned it at night and during the weekends. But during the last year the mileage had diminished until it has had to be withdrawn. The Brigade could not afford to maintain a full-time driver and payments from the County Council did not cover running costs. 62 09 27a

1962 11 01

Littleport and Downham Drainage Commissioners approved a new pumping station at Wood Fen-North Fen, Littleport $\,$ - 61 11 01a

1963 01 11

Littleport St George's church organ being rebuilt – 63 01 11a

1963 05 02

Emily Benstead of Littleport has been collecting for charity for nearly half a century – by bicycle. Her benevolent work started in the First World War and she has worn out three bikes, cycling thousands of miles and raising £1,500. She has been out in all weathers from deep snow to a heat wave, pedalling up to 15 miles at a time round surrounding Fenland. The Red Cross, St Dunstan's and Cancer are just some of those who have benefited as has St Matthew's Church. "She is a grand old lady who has done a wonderful job", said one villager $63\,05\,02$

1963 07 17

Planning proposals for Littleport show that three acres at Highfield have been marked down for residential development with more in the 'pleasant area' between the council houses and Martin School and along Woodfen Drove. Further development would be permitted behind the garage towards Camel Road. Not much industry was envisaged, though some could come in the Silt Road area. But there was no bypass as this would not materialise for a very long time. 63 07 17

1964 01 27

Brenda Malkin, Miss Littleport – 64 01 27a

1964 03 28

Contents of Ely museum, collected by Vernon Cross in Ye Olde Tea Rooms and Museum to be auctioned. Building ransacked by Littleport Rioters in 1816. It was restored by his father in 1905 when the collection was started – photos – $64\ 03\ 28$

1964 08 25

Littleport children's' treasure hunt – photos 64 08 25

1964 98 29

"The Images", four youths who formed their own rock group, played in public for the first time at a Littleport charity function. About 300 children gave them a rousing welcome that would not have disgraced Beatle fans. Tony Gipp of Burnt Fen manages the group which includes David Kerridge (lead guitar), John Summers (rhythm guitar), John Drake from Little Ouse (bass) and Michael Taylor from Mildenhall (drums). They are the first rock group to be formed in Littleport 64 08 29

1965 05 28

Littleport photo feature – 65 05 28a

1965 07 01

Littleport moorings being developed – photo – 65 07 01a

1965 12 09

Littleport youth centre opening – 65 12 09c

1966 08 12

Littleport has two museums – E.V. Kerridge's garage in Ely Road has collection of antiques, Francis Hatch, 11, has museum in her bedroom – 66 08 12

1969 10 30

Hiam's farms at Shippea Hill, Pratts Farm Prickwillow, Ape's Hall Littleport and Stretham not $sold-69\ 10\ 30$

1971 06 26

Littleport station master's house being demolished – 71 06 26a

1973 01 12

In the medical field a health centre is a social parallel to a village college. A health centre provides a very wide range of services and facilities to its "customers" all in one place. While Cambridgeshire was not among the real pioneers it has certainly joined the vanguard quickly. For it is now believed that there are more general practitioners based in Cambridgeshire Health centres, as a percentage, than anywhere else in the country. And this has all happened since the first health centre in the county was opened at March in 1969. Sawston Littleport and Whittlesey followed that year. Ely and Soham got similar centres in 1971, two more at Bar Hill and Fulbourn are now being built for opening next spring

1974 07 09

The unofficial title of Champion Herd of Cambridgeshire has gone to the Littleport firm, J.H. Martin & sons ltd, whose 70-strong Friesian herd won three titles in the Milk Marketing Board's milk records competition. It beat off opposition from Grantchester farmer Mr Bob Vigas, who gained second place and Mr F. D. Everitt of Stretham.

1974 09 03

Cambs Drugs Squad have dug up 30 cannabis plants from back gardens at Cambridge and Littleport since they made their appeal in last Saturday's News, to the public to keep an eye open for "pot" planters in their neighbourhood. The head of the squad said: "In the case of the plants we have no doubt they were planted in all innocence"

1976 01 05

About 700 homes in mid-Anglia were without electricity today – more than 48 hours after the gales. The areas hit by major faults included Saffron Walden, Ickleton, Burwell, Littleport, Haddenham, Gamlingay and Melbourn. Up until yesterday afternoon between 1,500 and 2,000 homes had been without power. The Fire Brigade dealt with 150 emergency calls and had all their appliances working to make wind-damaged property safe. Thirty caravans were blown over at Caravan International's Newmarket site.

1976 04 01

Farmers in the Waterbeach Fen and Swaffham areas were assessing the damage after what one of them describes as the worst fen blow he could remember in 25 years farming there. Huge black clouds hovered over the fens nearly all day as high winds whipped up the light soil and blocked many drainage channels in the area. The blow does not appear to have involved any other light peat land south of Littleport.

1977 04 01

Anglian Water Authority-owned eel fisheries should be offered in lots of sufficient size to allow a proper commercial enterprise to operate, but this may force out traditional companies. Eel fishermen already have to be licensed in Cambridgeshire where there is a tradition of eel fishing around Earith and Littleport but many waters are worked "unofficially". Waters are becoming more over-fished every year; Dutch companies are keen to take as many eels as they can and smoked eel sells at £4 [FOUR POUNDS] a lb [POUND] in Holland. If one of the present fishermen paid for an official lease he might police it more thoroughly and offer more protection for the fishery.

1977 07 28

The Railway Tavern, Shippea Hill, is threatened with closure by Watney Mann and the regulars are upset. The older men got to thinking back about the pub's previous owners. It was Steward and Patterson's, then Ely Ales, then East Anglian Breweries, then Watney's, then it was Truemans and then Watney's again. Three years ago it was one of the busiest pubs around. A lot of men worked in the station's goods yards but they were closed down and the custom drifted away. Now customers include a few farm workers and the passing trade: sales reps and occasional tourists. Sometimes servicemen from Lakenheath or Mildenhall pop in.

1978 08 23

A leakage of thousands of gallons of aircraft fuel at the Mildenhall American Air Force base may mean water supplies to 40,000 homes in the surrounding area will have to be cut off. The fuel is trapped underground near a bore-hole serving homes in the Ely and Littleport area. The Water Authority was informed on August 4th although the leakage had been discovered on July 18th when it was a kilometre from the bore-hole. Since then it had moved 200 metres but it was not clear whether it would eventually end up in the water supply. The oil is trapped in

porous rocks and holes are being drilled to locate it. The USAF then hopes to pump the fuel to the surface.

1979 02 12

Sometime during the night of July 17th last year a one-inch fuel pipe running under Mildenhall air base fractured. It was only a small leak but it is only now that the disturbing consequences have become apparent. The fuel threatened a water bore hole that served the whole of Ely and Littleport and an emergency water pipe had to be laid. Although the pipeline is on an American air base, the British taxpayers will pay the bill which is likely to be in the region of half a million pounds

1979 06 29

The first three factories to be built in a town by the Council for Small Industries in Rural Areas have been opened in Wisbech. They will be followed by others at Littleport, Ramsey, Chatteris and March. The policy had been to build them in truly rural areas but they decided to give special help to small towns where job opportunities were very limited. MP Clement Freud said it is helping people with cottage industries to take a stride forward; they cannot afford the overheads of a modern and efficient factory but this offers them units at a very good rent and will help them grow

1979 10 17

Planning permission for Littleport's controversial Sunday market has been rejected. It has been held at Padnal Fen since April. Market traders erect between 100 and 150 stalls and about 3,500 people are attracted each Sunday with about 1,000 cars using the car park. But lavatories are 'atrociously bad'. The District Council is trying to regenerate industrial and economic growth in Littleport which is a 'dying village' and the market could be extremely destructive, one councillor claimed.

1979 12 05

The Downham Market bypass, an important section of the multi-million pound A10 improvement plan has now opened. Together with the Denver-Southery improvements a full 10-miles of new road will be open by next spring, providing bypasses round all the important villages. Plans for a major improvement of the road between Brandon Creek and Littleport were however withdrawn in a review of roads policy last year

1979 12 05 c

The Ely-Littleport bypass could be lost if there was too big a fight for last-minute changes, a councillor warned. The Ministry of Transport has omitted a link road between the bypass and the A10 at Chettisham and because of this traffic bound for the north of Ely will have to enter along Downham Road and the narrow Egremont Street to get to most of the factory areas. But while a link road is desirable it is not essential and is economic. The council wants a lorry park at Chettisham which could form part of any future link road.

1980 09 04

England's future lies with small industries in towns like Littleport which are free of labour relations problems, said Euro MP Sir Fred Catherwood when he officially opened four new factories in the town. The ceremony fulfilled the dream of late Littleport councillor, Henry Crabb, who had campaigned for 30 years to revitalise the town's industry and now the road leading to the units built by the Council for Small Industries in Rural Areas has been named him 80 09 04b

1980 12 01

Soham Comrades' Band is the new brass band champion of Cambridge, snatching the title from Littleport. Chatteris Town Band came third. Each had to play a march, a hymn and one other work. In the contest for small bands Waterbeach took the first prize, Wicken was

second, followed by Cottenham, Haddenham and Burwell. Cottenham took the Cook trophy for the highest marks in the march with the Ernie Avery memorial trophy for the highest marks in the hymn going to Waterbeach. 80 12 01

1981 04 30

The least expensive part of a traditional wedding is the service. In an Anglican Church the basic charges for the ceremony without music add up to £25 plus an extra £3 for reading the banns. Extras such as an organist or choir cost £5 each. A Shire Hall register office ceremony costs £13. But a wedding dress averages £65, flowers £30 and wedding photographs at least £80. A Littleport firm now offers a video film for £85 but you need a video recorder to watch it afterwards. 81 04 30a

1981 10 20

The news that Littleport could lose its village college dropped like a bombshell on pupils, parents, teachers and school governors alike. Older pupils would transfer to Ely and the building turned into a primary school. But the loss of the 549-pupil college would turn Littleport into a 'ghost town' and protest petitions are being circulated. 81 10 20a

1981 10 21

Littleport primary school is bursting at the seams. Eleven of its 14 classrooms are temporary huts dotted around its tiny site and pupils have to run the gauntlet of fen weather to get to their toilets, to lunch and to lessons. Now the County Council is considering shutting the village college and using the redundant buildings for a new primary school. But the Head says it would not be suitable. 81 10 21

1981 11 04

Shock new proposals to change the face of education in the Ely area have emerged in a secret report. It suggests closure of five more schools at Little Ouse, Stuntney, Prickwillow, Black Horse Drove and St Audrey's, Ely together with Bedford House further education centre. At Littleport the Village College buildings would become a new county primary school. 81 11 04

1981 11 06

Ely schools closure – reactions – Stuntney, Prickwillow, Littleport – 81 11 06

1983 11 17

Sir - Life in Burnt Fen is not very rich these days. There is no work in the area. The nearest shop is 4½ [FOUR AND A HALF] miles away at Prickwillow and the school is due to close with the children bussed to Littleport. To get to the doctor's surgery people have to take the train from Shippea Hill station to Ely. There is no village hall, no church, chapel, nor even a post office. It hasn't a pub any more and there are no clubs. Is it any wonder that half the people living in the council houses want to change homes – Harry Bye 83 11 17 p16

1984 01 05

A new village industry is booming in Cambridgeshire – compiling village chronicles. It is the result of a major project at the Cambridgeshire Collection which has indexed the village news appearing in the Cambridge Chronicle newspaper between 1770 and 1899. Now these stories are being transcribed and published in a series of village 'Chronicles'. The first was compiled for Stretham and others have followed for Littleport, Barrington and Swavesey with more in the pipeline. 84 01 05 p14

1984 11 09

A scheme to provide badly-needed homes for the elderly is nearing completion at Littleport. Axion Housing Association hopes its development in Parson Lane will be finished in February so tenants can move into the 64 purpose-built flats. Each has central heating, fitted

kitchen and toilet with electric cooker, fridge and alarm system. Rents will be between £28 and £38 a week 84 11 09 p21

1984 11 23

Bowls, once the pensioners' preserve, is now attracting teenagers. Seventeen-year-old Roger Evans from Royston is their senior three-wood singles champion as well as Chesterton indoor club's under-18 champion. Greg Harlow, 16, from Ely who is a keen rugby, squash and soccer player also rates bowls as his top sport. "There are getting to be as many youngsters as old men in the game now", he observes. David Cornwell, who was barred from Ely's bowls greens and had to play at Littleport when he was 12, is now recognised as one of the country's brightest bowls innovators and has been asked to prepare a scheme for a national under-21 championship. 84 11 23

1984 12 07

Police are investigating the mystery disappearance of a Littleport woman. She walked out of her home above Cox's butchers shop in Station Road in July 1972, four years after her husband moved to American to be with their daughter after her USAF pilot husband died. William Cox had started up a butcher's shop in Main Street just after the First World War and also ran cafes in Wisbech, Downham Market and King's Lynn. He had since died and the search has been launched so that his will can be carried out. 84 12 07a & b

1985 12 20

Littleport hermit Bill Cox convicted of hiding dead mother – 85 12 20a

1986 03 25

Gale force winds continued to wreak havoc last night. At Wandlebury 75 trees were felled and frightened staff fled a Milton Science Park building as the winds ripped part of the roof off. At Littleport a caravan was smashed to pieces while others were blown over at the CT Caravans factory Newmarket. The wind also destroyed a large greenhouse in Fen Drayton and people living in Bures Court Haverhill had to be rehoused when a large crack appeared in the gable wall 86 03 25

1986 08 11

Littleport Grange nursing home doubt – 86 08 11

1986 09 11

A 100-year old tradition has come to an end as cattle and pigs were auctioned at the last livestock market to be held in Ely. It was a particularly sad day for the auctioneer, John Grain, who first started work exactly 48 years ago to the day at the market founded by his grandfather, Arthur Trett Grain. This time there was only one animal to be sold at the final cattle sale — a black Hereford brought along by Sidney King, a farmer of Littleport. The other part of the weekly market, the poultry, produce and furniture auctions will continue as usual. 86 09 11

1987 01 12

It was pitch dark at 3am one Sunday morning as a Newmarket lorry driver was making his way north of Littleport towards Welney. He was talking to his wife on CD radio when suddenly a bright green light appeared in the sky. It was heading down to earth at tremendous speed, then changed direction and zipped across the road before disappearing. His experiences follow that of two Burwell women who saw huge orange lights above the fields near Swaffham Prior. These are the first unidentified flying objects reported locally for six years. 87 01 12

1987 02 12

Talent spotters auditioned acts for a spot on Tom O'Connor's BBC Road Show at the Corn Exchange. Plucky Albert O'Dell, 80, is seeking for fame late in life. Cheered on by his wife he sped through imitations of animal and bird calls. Crooner David Bensley of Cambridge, a Frank Sinatra fan, put on an excellent show despite his tape machine playing the backing music too slowly. John Barry of Littleport who owns two TV shops might be on screen if his country music wins over the judges while Cambridge comedy jazz trio Froggits could be a strong contender: they are about to release an LP 87 02 12a

1987 03 09

Three men from the Newmarket area went on a drinking spree and missed the 'Herald of Free Enterprise' ferry, but two lorry drivers employed by a Littleport haulage firm are among the passengers still missing after the disaster. At Zeebrugge the number of people feared entombed in the sunken ferry is now put at 81, with 53 other bodies recovered. Recovery could take three weeks if the weather is favourable 87 03 09, 87 03 10, 11

1987 09 23

Bill Cox, Littleport recluse 87 09 23

1988 02 04

Education Secretary Kenneth Baker has given permission to turn St Bede's Roman Catholic School into a new inter-church school, one of only five in the country. It marks the final triumphant move in a turbulent chapter which almost ended with the secondary school being closed down after a drop in the number of pupils. It was reprieved following a determined battle by parents and teachers and headmistress Sister Dolores looks forward to an exciting future as a Christian secondary school for up to 600 Anglican and Roman Catholic children drawn from places as far apart as Littleport and St Neots 88 02 04.

1989 12 28

Ely has gone from gloom to boom over the past 10 years. The closure of the Sugar Beet Factory at Queen Adelaide with the loss of jobs was the biggest blow. The weekly livestock market closed as did Littleport Village College and a number of schools. But now the city, for so long a sleepy backwater in the fens, is about to witness one of the most dramatic periods of change in its entire history. There will be multi-million pound shopping centre, housing estates and industrial areas together with a new community of 1,500 houses between Ely and Cambridge. 89 12 28b

1990 05 31

 $J.H.\ Street\ draper\ shop,\ Littleport,\ account\ books\ discovered-90\ 05\ 31a$

1990 07 28

Littleport primary school closure was a mistake, say councillors – 90 07 28h